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## SNAG IN REBEL AID SAID TO WORRY U.S.

### Reagan Said to Get Report on Honduran Barriers to Help for Anti-Sandinistas

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 13 — The Honduran Government's resistance to channeling United States aid to Nicaraguan rebels was the focus of a report to President Reagan today from his new national security adviser, Vice Adm. John M. Poindexter, according to Administration officials.

The problem was of such importance that it became one of Admiral Poindexter's first orders of business, officials said. They noted that he visited five Central American nations Wednesday and Thursday to confer with officials and examine the Administration's campaign to support the rebels, who are trying to topple the Sandinista Government in Nicaragua.

The White House announced the visit in general terms and made no mention of Honduras's resistance to being used as a conduit for aid to the rebels. The delivery of that aid has been at a virtual standstill in Honduras for the last two months, according to Administration officials.

#### 'The Entire Range'

Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said the purpose of the visit was for Admiral Poindexter to assess "the entire range of things that are taking place in Central America" and also to "discuss measures to implement the President's policy of advancing the cause of democracy in the region." He declined to answer detailed questions about the trip.

Admiral Poindexter, who was named last week to succeed Robert C. McFarlane as the President's national security adviser, visited Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Panama and Costa Rica. He was accompanied by Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs.

An Administration official said that Admiral Poindexter's main purpose was to try to resolve the problem of shipping aid to the Nicaraguan rebels, a problem that became clear Oct. 10, when the Honduran Government confiscated an air shipment bound for the Nicaraguan insurgents supported by President Reagan. Administration officials have complained that Honduras has maintained a barrier to delivery of the aid since then.

#### Longstanding Complaint

Honduran officials have long complained about the open discussion in the United States of using Honduras as a staging area to supply the rebels, and this became a sensitive political question in the recent Honduran elections.

In describing the visit, Mr. Speakes said that "many of the local officials have expressed concern over Cuban involvement in combat operations." He added that "a particular concern" of the Administration was the need to do more to protect governments in the region against Sandinista "terrorism."

"Sending Poindexter down there first thing underscores the importance the President himself attaches to the situation," a White House official said.

Officials offered no indication of whether Admiral Poindexter reported he had made progress in expediting the aid shipments.

Asked whether Admiral Poindexter's mission was designed to increase support for the Nicaraguan rebels, Mr. Speakes replied, "Certainly we do support democratic actions in Central America, and that's one of them."

He declined to discuss what additional aid the Administration might seek from Congress, saying the President was always reviewing his Central American policy. A supplemental request is pending in the Senate for \$57 million in aid to train regional nations in counterterrorism.

The current \$27 million in aid to the Nicaraguan rebels runs through March 31 under Congressional restrictions that the money be used for such "nonlethal" items as food and medicine, and that the aid be distributed by the State Department rather than the Central Intelligence Agency.